

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 ARAE-00

HEW-02 /055 W

----- 030059

P R 012143Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 497

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF GOH RELATIONS WITH CHURCH AND UNC

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2787

1. UNC (NATIONAL UNION OF CAMPESINOS) AND CGT (GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS) LEADERS AND A NUMBER OF THEIR CAMPESINO FOLLOWERS REMAIN IN JAIL. CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNC AND CGT LEADERSHIP BUT SUCH A DIALOGUE HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE. CLEARLY THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT THE LEADERS TO LEAVE JAIL UNTIL A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT HOW TO TREAT THE AFTERMATH OF CAMPESINO PROTESTS.

2. A DELEGATION OF CHURCH LEADERS MET AGAIN WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR ON JUNE 30. THE DELEGATION PRESENTED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT PRESENT AND FUTURE CHURCH-STATE RELATION-
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SHIPS TO THE CHIEF OF STATE. MONSIGNOR SANTOS, ARCHBISHOP

OF TEGUCIGALPA, TOLD CHARGE ON EVENING OF JUNE 30 THAT MELGAR SAID HE WOULD ALLOW PRIESTS AND NUNS TO RETURN TO OLANCHO, THUS ANSWERING ONE OF THE CHURCH'S REQUESTS. TWO PRIESTS, ONE OF U.S. NATIONALITY, HAVE STILL NOT BEEN LOCATED.

3. AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE IN RURAL OR URBAN AREAS SINCE THE PAST WEEKEND. HOWEVER, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IS UNEASY AS EVERYONE WAITS TO SEE WHAT COURSE THE GOVERNMENT TAKES IN DEALING WITH THE MANY PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE COUNTRY. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION, FRU, THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, COLPROSUMAH, HAVE ISSUED DECLARATIONS CONDEMNING THE LAND-OWNERS AND "REACTIONARY GROUPS" FOR THEIR ATTACKS ON CAMPESINOS IN OLANCHO AND OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. SOWASH

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